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December 27, 2001

Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I applaud the recent decision by the Department of Justice to drop the monopoly and tying lawsuit against Microsoft. Now, it is time to settle the remaining issues and move on. The harm done to the technology industry by ever-expanding litigation and the threat of government regulation will soon be felt by every consumer of high-tech products.

Microsoft has invested tremendous resources to develop products like the new XP operating system. It is unfortunate that some competitors think it is more valuable to lobby the government in an attempt to gain market advantage rather than focus on developing innovations such as XP.

For the sake of the American consumer and our preeminence in the global marketplace, I am writing in support of the settlement negotiated by the Department of Justice. It is time to settle all remaining issues and let healthy competition return to the high-tech industry.

RALPH PAYNE CEO
Sincerely,



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